

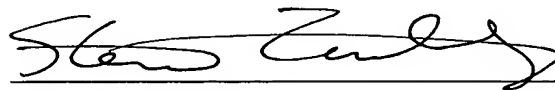
Applicants: Claus et al.
Preliminary Amendment
Amdt. dated December 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Preliminary Amendment, U.S. format headings have been introduced into the specification and the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing submission, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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